



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Cross County Trail Receives National Recognition

The Fairfax County Park Authority's Cross County Trail was one of 40 newly designated National Recreation Trails announced by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne during National Trails Day activities on Saturday, June 2, 2007. The designation recognizes existing trails that connect people to resources and improve the quality of their life.

The Cross County Trail connects parks, communities and neighbors along its 41-mile route as it meanders from the Potomac River in the north to the Occoquan River in the south. It is the county's primary multi-use trail and allows users to enjoy a variety of landscapes including many scenic stream valleys. Hiking, biking and horseback riding opportunities are available along the trail, and bicycle commuters use it as an alternative to busy roads.

"Creation of the Cross County Trail has been a priority of mine since before I was elected Chairman, and its completion was made possible through collaboration with the County, the Park Authority and many dedicated volunteers. This national designation is wonderful recognition for that work," said Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. "Looking into the future, we are actively pursuing a partnership that will connect the Cross County Trail with the Potomac National Heritage Scenic Trail, creating a 105-mile continuous loop through some of the best natural habitat Fairfax County and Northern Virginia have to offer."

National Recreation Trails (NRT) are part of the National Trails System. Each of the trails inducted into the system receives a certificate of designation and trail markers, as well as promotional benefits, technical assistance, networking and potential access to funding. The NRT program's goal is to promote the use and care of existing trails and stimulate the development of new ones.

The trail network is comprised of more than 900 trails, representing 11,000 miles of trails which showcase the diversity of the American landscape. They can be trails on land or water, in urban or rural areas, range from less than a mile to 1,500 miles in length, and are on federal, state, municipal and privately owned lands in all 50 states.

The National Recreation Trails is jointly administered by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and the U.S. Forest Service in conjunction with other federal and nonprofit partners including American Trails.

For more information about National Recreation Trails, please visit www.nps.gov/rtca. For information about the Cross County Trail or maps, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/cct/ or call 703-324-8701.

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